

REMARKS

The Examiner has required election between Groups I-IV claims as indicated in her January 9, 2007 Office Action. The Applicants herein elect Claims 1-15 to prosecute in the present Application. Applicants expressly reverse the right to pursue non-elected claims 16-35 in any related application, claiming priority to the present Application, such as a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part application. Applicants have therefore elected claims 1-15 and withdrawn claims 16-25 as seen in the attached claim listing.

Although the Examiner has grouped the claims somewhat differently in her Office Action, a closer review of the claims reveal that claims 1-14, drawn to methods of reducing pathogens in mammal's blood using an extracorporeal blood circuit device should be prosecuted together. Further, claim 15, the only claim in the present application related to an extracorporeal blood circuit device for treating blood, should be prosecuted with the claims drawn to methods of treating blood with an extracorporeal blood circuit device. The Applicants believe that keeping claims 1-15 together in the present application should not present a high burden on the Examiner in searching for prior art. If a search is made for methods of treating the blood with nitric oxide in an extracorporeal blood circuit device, than surely such a search would include extracorporeal blood circuit devices themselves.

Any fees associated with this filing may be charged to Sidley Austin LLP's Deposit Account No. 50-1597. This submission is timely filed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
SIDLEY AUSTIN, LLP

By: Carissa A. Tener  
Carissa A. Tener  
Reg. No. 52,278  
555 W. Fifth St., Suite 4000  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
(213) 896 6000 (phone)  
(213) 896 6600 (fax)

Date: January 18, 2007